

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 05719 01 OF 02 061719Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02 SP-02 STR-04
TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00
NSCE-00 EURE-00 INRE-00 /083 W
-----061805Z 085668 /45

R 061657Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0104
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 05719

USEEC

DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/RPE AND EB/ITP/EWT
BELGRADE FOR US DEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EEC, ECE, EGEN, CSCE, EEWT, PFOR
SUBJ: US SUBMISSION TO ECE OF LIST OF ECONOMIC AND
COMMERCIAL INFORMATION: EC COMMISSION REACTION

1. EC COMMISSION EXTERNAL RELATIONS OFFICIAL LOUIS KAWAN
CALLED IN MISSION OFFICER JUNE 7 TO CONVEY COMMISSION
REACTION TO US LIST OF ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL INFORMATION
TO BE SUBMITTED TO ECE (REFAIR). KAWAN SAID THE COMMISSION
HAS STRONG RESERVATIONS CONCERNING THE LIST ON THE
FOLLOWING GROUNDS:

--THE LIST IS TOO GENERAL, ALL-ENCOMPASSING, AND
"IDEALISTIC" AND, WHILE PERFECTLY SUITED TO MARKET ECONOMY
PERFORMANCE, BEARS LITTLE RELEVANCE TO THE REALITIES OF
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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 05719 01 OF 02 061719Z

STATE-TRADING ECONOMIES AND IS LIKELY TO BE REJECTED BY
THE EAST EUROPEANS ON THAT BASIS (KAWAN SINGLED OUT AS
TOTALLY INAPPLICABLE THE "DOMESTIC FINANCE" PORTION).
THE COMMISSION CONSIDERS THAT IF ANY LIST AT ALL WERE
SUBMITTED, IT SHOULD MORE APPROPRIATELY BE PREPARED ON
THE BASIS OF SPECIFIC COMPLAINTS BY BUSINESSMEN OPERATING
IN EACH EAST EUROPEAN STATE.

--HOWEVER, KAWAN STRESSED THE VIEW THAT SUBMISSION OF ANY LIST TO THE ECE WOULD CONFUSE THE ROLE OF THE ECE WITH INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF FINAL ACT SIGNATORIES AND ENTAIL CERTAIN RISKS. THE COMMUNITY'S POSITION HAS ALWAYS BEEN THAT THE PUBLICATION, DISSEMINATION, AND EXCHANGE OF ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL INFORMATION SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN ON AN "AUTONOMOUS BASIS" BY EACH FINAL ACT SIGNATORY AND THAT THE ROLE OF THE ECE SHOULD NOT BE TO DEFINE CATEGORIES OF INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED BUT ONLY TO CIRCULATE SUCH INFORMATION ONCE AVAILABLE. THE COMMISSION WISHES TO AVOID OFFERING AN OPENING TO THE EAST EUROPEANS TO PUSH FOR ECE AGREEMENT ON THEIR OWN SET OF INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS (WHICH WOULD DOUBTLESS BE INADEQUATE). FOR PURELY TACTICAL REASONS, THE COMMISSION WISHES TO HOLD IN RESERVE, FOR UTILIZATION AT BELGRADE, A DISCUSSION OF DISSEMINATION AND EXCHANGE OF ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL INFORMATION.

--FINALLY, KAWAN EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE US LIST MAKES NO ATTEMPT TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN THOSE EUROPEAN STATES WITH RELATIVELY BETTER RECORDS OF DISSEMINATING ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL INFORMATION (SUCH AS HUNGARY AND POLAND) AND THOSE WITH POOR RECORDS (SUCH AS BULGARIA AND THE GDR).

2. KAWAN STRESSED THAT HIS COMMENTS REFLECT ONLY THE COMMISSION'S VIEWS FOR THE MOMENT, ADDING THAT THE JUNE 3 DISCUSSION ON THE US LIST BY THE COMMISSION/COREPER EAST

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PAGE 03 BRUSSE 05719 01 OF 02 061719Z

EUROPEAN GROUP DID NOT RESULT IN ANY CONCRETE EXPRESSION OF VIEWS BY MEMBER STATE REPRESENTATIVES, MOST OF WHOM PLEADED INADEQUATE TIME TO STUDY THE LIST. KAWAN EMPHASIZED THAT THE EC WILL NOT OPPOSE OR PUBLICLY QUARREL WITH THE US OVER WHAT AMOUNTS TO PURELY TACTICAL DIFFERENCES. HE SAID THE JUNE 3 EXPERTS MEETING HAD RESULTED IN TENTATIVE AGREEMENT THAT THE COMMISSION SHOULD SEND A LETTER TO ECE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY STANOVNIK MAKING THE FOLLOWING POINTS: (A) THE SUBJECT IS AN IMPORTANT ONE, WHICH WILL BE DISCUSSED AT BELGRADE; (B) ALL SIDES SHOULD AWAIT THE RESULTS OF THE BELGRADE DISCUSSIONS; AND (C) THE EC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO SUBMIT A LIST LATER THIS YEAR. KAWAN POINTED OUT THAT SUCH A LETTER WOULD ALLOW THE EC A WAY AROUND THE JUNE 30 DEADLINE SET BY ITEM 15.2.4 OF THE 1976-1981 ECE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAM, WITHOUT ACTUALLY PROVIDING ANY LIST OF ITS OWN. THE EC COULD THUS RETAIN THE TACTICAL FLEXIBILITY IT DESIRES FOR THE BELGRADE MEETINGS, WITH THE OPTION OF SUBMITTING ITS OWN LIST TO THE ECE IF THE NEGOTIATING

SITUATION SO DICTATES AT A POINT LATER THIS YEAR. THE
FINAL DECISION ON THIS LETTER IS TO BE TAKEN AT A JUNE 13
MEETING IN BRUSSELS OF THE COMMISSION/COREPER CSCE BASKET
2 WORKING GROUP.

3. FOR DEPARTMENT: MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE ANY GUIDANCE
DEPARTMENT MAY WISH FOR US TO CONVEY TO COMMISSION PRIOR
TO JUNE 13 MEETING.

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 05719 02 OF 02 062254Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
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TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00
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O 061657Z JUN 77 CORRECTED COPY FOR MRN
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0108
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BRUSSELS 05719

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 05719 VICE 05714)

4. FOR BELGRADE: KAWAN HIMSELF WILL BE LEAVING FOR
BELGRADE JUNE 12. HE EXPRESSED KEEN INTEREST IN BEING
IN TOUCH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WITH US DEL MEMBERS. HIS
OFFICE WILL BE IN SAME BUILDING AS THAT OF THE BELGIAN
DELEGATION; HE INDICATED THAT US DEL COULD GET PHONE
NUMBER FROM UK DEL. HINTON

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